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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

31st MARCH, 1959

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Bulletin No. 9 of 1959.

Numbers of livestock in the State at 31st March for each of the last five years are summarised below. Following tables give statistics for each type of livestock in greater detail.

Livestock Numbers - 31st March

<u>Classification</u>	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
SHEEP					
Under 1 year	2,592.9	2,906.3	3,457.2	3,436.9	3,061.7
1 year and over	10,224.2	10,678.6	11,526.6	11,799.6	12,572.6
Total	12,817.1	13,584.9	14,983.8	15,236.5	15,634.3
CATTLE					
Dairy Cows	199.3	195.0	194.5	191.2	187.8
Other Dairy Cattle	69.6	69.3	71.0	67.6	60.6
Beef Cattle	254.9	301.8	356.1	338.4	327.7
Total	523.8	566.1	621.6	597.2	576.1
HORSES	48.9	44.5	41.0	35.7	33.3
PIGS	84.5	72.9	92.2	108.3	98.4

SHEEP

Since the two-year drought which caused sheep numbers to fall from 10,359,700 in 1944 to 6,786,500 in 1946, there has been a rapid increase in numbers. Higher rates of slaughterings and mortality in the past two years, and a fall of almost 500,000 in lambs marked in 1958 have affected this trend, but despite this a new record of 15,634,326 sheep was established - 397,781 more than the 1958 record.

Sheep Numbers - 31st March

<u>Classification</u>	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Rams	163.3	169.8	184.3	188.7	197.6
Breeding Ewes	5,886.5	6,324.5	6,976.2	6,578.7	7,284.3
Other Ewes	784.5	750.6	719.6	1,045.0	826.2
Wethers	3,389.9	3,433.7	3,646.5	3,987.2	4,264.5
Lambs	2,592.9	2,906.3	3,457.2	3,436.9	3,061.7
Total	12,817.1	13,584.9	14,983.8	15,236.5	15,634.3

BREEDS OF SHEEP

Particulars of the breeds of sheep as at 31st March 1958 and 1959 are:

Breed	1958	1959	Breed	1958	1959
	'000	'000		'000	'000
Merino	12,641.3	13,111.8	Suffolk	14.0	14.9
Corriedale	900.5	880.4	Southdown	4.6	10.3
Polwarth	54.2	50.4	Other & unspecified		
Dorset Horn	32.0	40.7	pure breeds	9.1	7.9
Romney March	22.7	32.2	Merino Comeback	317.2	312.6
Border Leicester	18.8	23.9	Crossbred	1,222.1	1,149.2

LAMBING

In 1958 there were decreases from the 1957 records in ewes mated (8.50%) and lambs marked (9.58%). The lambing percentage of 76.07% was somewhat below that of recent years, but nevertheless is the seventh-highest ever recorded in the State.

Lambing - Years 1954 to 1958

Particulars	Unit	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Ewes Mated	'000	5,242.2	5,654.5	6,142.4	6,568.0	6,009.6
Lambs Marked	'000	4,014.8	4,439.7	4,909.9	5,056.1	4,571.7
Lambing Percentage	%	76.59	78.51	79.93	76.98	76.07

Farmers indicated that they intended to mate a total of 7,156,042 ewes in 1959 - 4,650,755 to merino rams, 450,322 to corriedale and polwarth, 1,330,127 to shortwool and 724,838 to other longwool rams.

WOOL CLIP

The estimated total wool production, 187,400,000 lb. is only slightly below the 1956/57 record. However value of production was only about 60% of the 1956/57 value, as average price was the lowest for ten years.

The last three seasons are compared with 1950/51 (the season of boom prices) in the following table:

Sheep Shorn and Wool Produced

Particulars	Unit	1950-51	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Sheep and lambs shorn	'000	10,736	15,717	17,085	16,521
Total Clip, Crutchings, etc.	'000 lb.	114,309	175,274	168,194	170,887
Average per fleece	lb.	10.65	11.15	9.84	10.33
Total Wool Production (a)	'000 lb.	125,384	188,808	185,843	187,400(b)
Value of Production	£000	66,247	57,289	42,354	34,171(b)
Average price (greasy), Adelaide sales	d.	129.16	73.82	56.11	45.62

(a) Includes fellmongered wool, wool exported on skins and dead wool.

(b) Preliminary figures.

CATTLE

Number of both dairy and beef cattle fell for the second year in succession, and the total number is now 7.32% below the 1957 record of 621,577.

A considerable rise in slaughterings in 1957-58 and a further slight rise 1958-59 appear to be mainly responsible for the decrease in numbers.

Cattle Numbers - 31st March

Classification	1955 '000	1956 '000	1957 '000	1958 '000	1959 '000
DAIRY CATTLE					
Sows - In Milk	109.4	102.5	104.0	98.6	100.1
Dry	60.4	63.3	62.6	65.4	58.2
Springing Heifers	29.5	29.2	27.9	27.2	29.5
Total	199.3	195.0	194.5	191.2	187.8
Other Heifers	17.6	18.1	16.9	18.5	16.1
Calves	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.0
Total	43.2	42.4	45.3	40.5	36.5
Total	268.9	264.3	265.5	258.8	248.4
BEEF CATTLE					
Sows and Heifers	118.9	144.4	171.9	169.6	156.1
Calves	5.2	5.8	6.7	6.8	6.7
Total	61.7	73.1	100.1	86.6	73.5
Other	69.1	78.5	77.4	75.4	91.4
Total	254.9	301.8	356.1	338.4	327.7
TOTAL CATTLE	523.8	566.1	621.6	597.2	576.1

DAIRY

PRODUCTION

Production of cheese, butter and bacon has been declining for several years although preliminary figures show a rise in production of cheese in 1958-59. Butter production is the lowest since 1930-31.

Estimated production of milk is slightly higher than in 1957-58, but is still well below the record of 93,950,000 gallons in 1946-47.

Dairy Production - years ended 30th June

Production	Unit	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59(a)
Butter	'000 lb.	19,497.6	19,541.3	19,260.3	16,060.7	16,000
Cheese	'000 lb.	29,346.9	28,297.4	26,786.9	23,509.8	25,000
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	7,254.4	7,676.5	7,294.8	6,996.6	6,850
Milk and Total Milk Production	'000 gal.	90,700.0	90,350.0	89,900.0	80,600.0	83,650

(a) Preliminary figures

PIGS

The number of pigs varies from year to year but has been lower in recent years than 10-20 years ago, the maximum being 190,068 in 1940.

Number of Pigs - 31st March

Classification	Unit	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Sows	'000	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.6	2.4
Breeding Sows	'000	12.9	10.8	14.8	16.0	14.4
Other	'000	69.4	60.2	75.0	89.7	81.6
TOTAL	'000	84.5	72.9	92.2	108.3	98.4

HORSES The number of horses has been falling rapidly for many years and there are now only 33,290 compared with the record of 283,641 in 1913. The decline has been most marked in the case of draught horses, which numbered 112,811 (68.4% of all horses) when first recorded separately in 1943, but are now less than 5% of that figure.

Number of Horses - 31st March

Classification	Unit	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Foals	'000	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8
Draught Horses	'000	13.7	10.8	8.8	6.6	5.3
Other Horses	'000	33.1	31.5	30.1	27.1	26.2
Total	'000	48.9	44.5	41.0	35.7	33.3

SLAUGHTERINGS In 1957/58, slaughterings of sheep, lambs, cattle and calves were the highest ever recorded, and represented a substantial increase over figures for preceding years. Preliminary statistics for 1958/59 indicate that except for a slight fall in slaughterings of adult sheep, this high level is being maintained.

Livestock Slaughterings - years ended 30th June

Classification	Unit	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59(a)
Sheep	'000	1,351.5	1,254.2	1,254.2	1,894.1	1,718.0
Lambs	'000	1,447.4	1,103.4	1,074.9	1,383.7	1,363.7
Cattle & Calves	'000	232.9	227.4	252.0	282.5	288.4
Pigs	'000	136.3	132.2	123.7	175.3	175.2

(a) Preliminary figures

MORTALITY The reported loss of livestock from drought and all other causes during the years ended 31st March, 1955 to 1959 is shown in the following table:

LOSS

Mortality of Livestock - years ended 31st March

Classification	Unit	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Sheep	'000	436.4	447.0	475.0	584.8	596.2
Lambs	'000	103.4	116.0	129.2	148.8	119.0
Cattle	'000	17.0	18.0	19.7	22.1	29.5
Horses	'000	3.1	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8
Pigs	'000	6.3	5.5	6.5	8.3	8.6

AREAS UNDER DEVELOPMENT The following table shows increases in the numbers of sheep and cattle between March 1951 and March 1959, in counties where development has been most rapid and where the greatest increases in top-dressed pastures have occurred.

County	Division	Sheep			Cattle		
		1951	1959	Increase	1951	1959	Increase
		'000	'000	%	'000	'000	%
Carnarvon	Central	117.2	368.9	215	1.7	5.5	221
Buckingham	South East	254.6	649.3	155	3.7	12.6	239
Cardwell	"	53.7	242.0	351	0.7	4.1	483
Grey	"	704.7	1,288.9	83	66.1	96.6	46
MacDonnell	"	306.3	660.8	116	6.2	17.0	176
Robe	"	524.4	1,089.0	108	15.8	38.2	143
Flinders	Western	316.4	491.0	55	2.7	4.7	73
Russell	Murray Mallee	123.8	242.3	96	11.1	14.9	34
Balance		7,765.4	10,602.1	37	324.6	382.5	18
TOTAL STATE		10,166.5	15,634.3	54	432.6	576.1	33

LIVESTOCK IN DIVISIONS

The number of livestock in statistical divisions at the 31st March, the increases and the percentage increases for the State are shown for the years 1958 and 1959 in the table below.

Livestock in Divisions - Years ending 31st March

<u>Division</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>		<u>CATTLE</u>		<u>HORSES</u>		<u>PIGS</u>	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Central	3,227.4	3,392.4	164.8	164.1	9.4	8.6	44.1	41.0
Lower North	2,057.9	2,079.4	32.3	33.3	3.6	3.2	23.5	21.6
Upper North	1,200.2	1,189.6	19.4	23.3	2.8	2.7	3.9	3.4
South Eastern	3,967.5	3,930.1	177.7	168.4	5.1	5.0	7.8	6.0
Western	2,345.7	2,460.9	15.9	15.4	3.4	3.0	16.7	14.3
Murray Mallee	1,363.8	1,381.3	27.3	28.1	2.2	1.9	12.3	12.0
Total Counties	14,162.5	14,433.7	437.4	432.6	26.5	24.4	108.3	98.3
Outside Counties	1,074.0	1,200.6	159.8	143.5	9.2	8.9	0.0	0.1
Total State	15,236.5	15,634.3	597.2	576.1	35.7	33.3	108.3	98.4
Increase over previous year	252.7	397.8	-24.4	-21.1	-5.4	-2.4	16.1	-9.9
Percentage Increase	1.69%	2.61%	-3.93%	-3.53%	-13.13%	-6.72%	17.46%	-9.14%

GOYDER'S LINE

The table below shows the number of sheep, cattle and horses within and beyond Goyder's Line in 1927 (just prior to the 1927-29 drought), 1952 and 1959. The numbers of sheep and cattle outside Goyder's Line in 1952 are only slightly different from the 1927 figures, but have risen steadily in the past seven years. Within Goyder's Line the numbers rose generally to 1952 and sharply since then, so that the percentage within Goyder's Line has increased substantially. This has been largely due to the increase in top-dressed pastures.

The number of horses throughout South Australia has been falling steadily since 1936, but the decline has been more rapid within Goyder's Line (only 59% of horses now being within this line compared with 72% in 1936).

Details of livestock for the years 1927, 1952 and 1959 are as follows:-

<u>Live stock</u>	<u>Within Goyder's Line</u>			<u>Beyond Goyder's Line</u>			<u>Percentage within</u>		
	1927	1952	1959	1927	1952	1959	1927	1952	1959
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Sheep	4,515.3	8,367.4	11,922.7	3,027.1	3,102.7	3,711.6	59.87	72.95	76.26
Cattle	160.5	288.3	396.8	155.8	149.2	179.3	50.75	65.90	68.87
Horses	159.0	44.5	19.7	65.0	18.7	13.6	70.99	70.39	59.14

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12th August, 1959.